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THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS  
23 October 1975

## Helms Brings Up LBJ

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, Oct. 22 (News Bureau) — Richard Helms, former director of central intelligence, indicated under questioning by the Senate Intelligence Committee today that President Lyndon Johnson might have known about the Central Intelligence Agency's mail-opening project at New York's Kennedy Airport.

Helms told the committee that he believed he "mentioned" the project — in which more than 215,000 pieces of mail were opened over a 20-year period — to Johnson during a White House meeting in the spring of 1967. He said there was "no written record" of the session, however.

Helms was CIA director from 1966 to 1973.

The committee is attempting to find out who gave the orders for the mail-opening operation, which CIA officials have conceded was illegal. If Johnson was aware of the project, as Helms suggested, then there apparently was tacit presidential sanction for it. The operation, which began in 1953, continued for six years after the White House meeting that Helms cited, until CIA officials brought it to

a close under pressure from Postal Service authorities.

Under questioning by senators, Helms refused to say whether he thought the operation had been illegal. He said he was not a lawyer.